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AN ACCOUNT OF THE BARONY OF FORTH, IN THE COUNTY
OF WEXFORD, WRITTEN AT THE CLOSE OF THE SEVEN-
TEENTH CENTURY.

EDITED BY HERBERT F. HORE, ESQ.

THE original MS. of this tract is in the possession of Sir T. Phillips, Bart., Middlehill, Worcestershire, with other contemporary accounts of Irish counties and districts, which were written for Sir William Petty, at the time he intended to accompany his Atlas of Ireland with a volume of such treatises. It is entitled:—"Briefe Description of the Barony of Fort, in the County of Wexford, together with a Relation of the Disposition and some peculiar Customs of the Ancient and Present Native Inhabitants thereof." The date appears to be about 1680. Who the author was is not known: but, from the frequent reference to religious matters, the thorough acquaintance displayed with them, the quotations from classic writers, and the circumstance that the citations from the Old and New Testaments are in the Latin language, I conjecture that he was a Roman Catholic priest; and, further, that his name was Synnott, because he shows intimate knowledge of this family. Whoever he was, he evidently was chosen as capable of drawing up a complete account of the old colonists of the barony of Forth. His statements respecting these descendants of the first English settlers in Ireland have the lively interest resulting from the close acquaintance of the writer with his subject, and the apparent faithfulness of his delineations.

Besides the local value attaching to this representation, there is a relative one, since the characteristics of the colony under consideration were shared by whatever *Fer-Sassony*, or Saxon men, were descended from settlers in other parts of the kingdom at the epoch of Strongbow's invasion, such as the dwellers in the plains of Downshire, whose forefathers had been planted there by De Courcy, and their congeners who inhabited the fertile district north of our metropolis, still called Fingal, from having been the seat, at an earlier period, of a Scandinavian primitive *Finé-gall*, or tribe of foreigners. The true reason why these rich champaigns were taken by the English race, and successfully held against the Irish, is, no doubt, to be found in the difference between feudal and clan tenure of land—the former giving, by its individuality and security of possession and inheritance, great advantage over the latter.

Many passages in our old works and archives could be brought to bear on the peculiarities of the district in question, among which

is the origin ascribed in the Four Masters to the foremost invaders, who, in 1169, landed, under Robert Fitz-Stephen, at the mouth of the Banna, in this county. This puny band of adventurers is designated as "seventy Flemings, clothed in coats of mail," showing the special extraction assigned by the Irish to the first enterprisers; and it appears that, besides these, very many settlers of the twelfth century came from the Flemish colony in South Wales, and imprinted their characteristics in Ireland. Of this fact, several surnames are evidence—as Fleming, Baron of Slane; Prendergast, whose original name has a Flemish appearance, and was to be found in the colonies from Flanders which established themselves in Pembrokeshire and on the Scottish border; Chievres, now Cheevers; Synad, now Synot; Cullen, Wadding, Whythay, now Whitley; Cusac, Sigin, Wilkin, and Boscher. Indeed, were we to run through the roll of old county Wexford names, we should find fewest of Saxon origin; so that we have to seek a sound reason why the Saxon language was the birth-tongue of the barony Forth dialect. Thus, the Norman prefix *Fitz*, was frequent, there being Fitz-Henry, or Fitz-Harris; Fitz-Reymond, now Redmond; Fitz-Elie, and Fitz-Nicol. Other Norman names were Talbot, from the barony of this name near Rouen, with Devereux, Rochfort, Neville, Browne, and Poer. To Pembrokeshire, the adjacent hive across the sea whence the largest immigrant swarm issued, may be traced the families of Barrett, Barry, Bryan, Carew, Caunteton (now Condon), Hay, Keating, Meyler, Roche, Russell, Stackpole, Scurlock, and Walsh. To Devonshire, Furlong of that ilk, Bellew, Codde, Cruys, Hore. Of uncertain locality are Harper (said to be descended from Strongbow's harper), Sutton, Stafford, Ros-siter, Loundres, Esmonde, French, Lamport, Peppard, St. John, and Turner. These names are only part of those of the first colonist families, yet suffice to show that the Teutonic character was strongly impressed, by means of these families, on this part of Ireland. An old barony Forth alliterative rhyme, still in men's mouths, conveys the hereditary characteristics of some of these races:—

Stiff Stafford,
Dugged Lamport,
Gay Rochfort,
Proud Deweros,
Lacheny Cheevers,
Currachy Hore,
Criss Colfer,
Valse Vurlong,
Shimereen Synnott,
Gentleman Brune,

Stiff Stafford.
Dogged Lambert.
Gay Rochfort.
Proud Devereux.
Laughing Cheevers.
Obstinate Hore.
Cross Colfer.
False Furlong.
Showy Synnott.
Gentle Browne.

On the question as to the proportion of Flemings among these settlers, the Very Rev. Dr. Russell has, in an interesting paper,

read in August, 1857, before the British Association of Science, at its meeting in Dublin, on the ethnography of this district, shown that Henry I. sent English colonists among the Flemings in South Wales, to teach them the Saxon tongue. These instructors were, doubtless, of the fair sex, which is ever wanting in a young settlement; and it seems, by old Higden, the teachers in point were so diligent that, in this chronicler's time, the descendants of these Flemings spoke a barbarous Saxon dialect. There is also the testimony of Camden that the Pembrokeshire plantation was called "Little England beyond Wales;" and further might be quoted a curious letter in Ellis's collection,¹ expatiating on the affinity between the people of Pembroke and Wexford counties. The one was parent of the other, and the connexion could be proved, by many records, to have been kept up. The Earls of Pembroke, of whatever house, retained the lordship of Wexford until the middle of the fifteenth century; and several deeds extant of the Roches, Barrys, Carews, Waddings, and others, prove the relationship between lords of property on both sides of St. David's Strait. The fact that the Irish, or Celtic people, of most districts in this island were originally emigrants from Britain, being now generally acknowledged, I would remark, first, on the dislocations caused among them in the south-east by Strongbow's invasion; and, secondly, on that difference in their policy, or social customs, which enabled them, for five hundred years, to keep the English at bay. On the former point, it seems, from the "Book of Rights," that the district of Forth was, in the beginning of the ninth century, the territory of a foreign people, who were, no doubt, the Easterlings, or Ostmen, of whom we shall find mention in the ensuing pages, under the head of the Lord of Wexford's manors of Roslare and Ballymore, to which the residue of this people were confined by their subjugators. The native inhabitants of Bargy may have been swept, by the wave of invasion, to Sliav-Margy, and have subsequently been known as the O'Mores, and the seven septs of Leix. Shelmalier was the seat of the *Siol-Maleor*, i. e., the seed or race of Malaor, who moved up to Glenmalier in Wicklow, and to Clanmalier in Offaly. Shelburne was possibly the region of the *Siol-Brammach*, or race of Britons, perhaps progenitors of the O'Byrnes, Kavanaghs, &c., who moved northward. These indigenous clans kept the countries to which they emigrated against the English, because the land was comparatively unfertile, either as forest or mountain; and this quality enabled the possessors to hold their own down to the close of the sixteenth century. Of this there is

¹ "Original Letters," first series, vol. i., p. 191. See also a paper on the "Englishry of Pembrokeshire, and its

Dialect," by Thomas Purnell, Esq., in the "Cambrian Journal" for the month of December, 1859.

a vivid explanation in a letter from Sir Henry Wallop, of Enniscorthy, dated 8th June, 1581, at Wexford, and addressed to Secretary Walsingham. The period was one when it was of political importance to master the Irish clans; and the writer insists that the countries of the Kavanaghs, O'Tooles, and O'Byrnes are the first which ought to be reduced to obedience. The people inhabiting them have, he remarks, ever been enemies, lying in the bosom of the English; and he observes that they cannot be other than despoilers, living, as they do, idly and licentiously. Why they lived so was because of their vicious system of land tenure. Their strongholds, he says, consist in woods growing in rocky valleys, which woods they plash in many places, and then they lie therein for safety. This mode of fortifying and living is no other than that of the most antique forest tribes, as described by Hesiod, Strabo, and other old writers. Sir Henry Wallop had also observed the ruins of many castles of the ancient English on the marches of these countries, which had been almost razed to the ground by the Irishry, who, observes he, will have none such, but wish all the land to lie open, without such places of strength. In effect, secure only in their forest-forts, and in the wilderness state of their region, they were naturally jealous of the stone towers which enabled the Englishry to keep the rich lands they had gained. This remarkable letter concludes by observing that:—"The countye of Wexford was the fyrst place our nation landed and inhabited in; to this day they generally speake oulde English,¹ and are best affected to our nation, and easiest to be governed."

¹ For notices of the peculiar language of this district, see Stanihurst, *apud* Hollinshed's "Chronicle;" Fraser's "Statistical Survey of the County of Wexford," published under the auspices of the Dublin Society, Dublin, 1807, p. 70, and the Appendix, where a specimen and vocabulary of the language are given; Mason's "Parochial Survey," vol. iii., p. 411, &c. The last instance of the use of this peculiar dialect occurred during the visit of Lord Mulgrave, then Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, to Wexford, A. D. 1836. The document is taken from the "Wexford Independent" of Feb. 15, 1860, where an interesting account of the circumstances under which the address was drawn up is given by the editor of that paper, Mr. Edmund Hore, who was the composer, and also the reader of the document before the Lord Lieutenant. Mr. Hore's observations are as follows:—

"As the Barony Forth address to Earl Mulgrave has given rise to far

more discussion about the Barony Forth and its old dialect than was dreamed of at the time, it may not be amiss to state simply its origin and the manner of it. The first to notice it was a writer in the 'Dublin University Magazine.' It then found a place in Mr. and Mrs. Hall's 'Ireland.' The late erudite Dr. G. E. Latham took particular notice of it in his learned work on the English language; and the Very Rev. Dr. Russell, President of the Royal College, Maynooth, made it the subject of an interesting and learned paper, read at the last meeting of the British Association held in Dublin. The origin was thus:—Mr. John H. Talbot, then M. P. for New Ross, whose character for hospitality has ever been unquestionable, had the neighbouring clergymen and several lay friends to dinner with him about the 1st of August [1836], at Ballytrent. The visit of the Lord Lieutenant was a particular subject of conversation; and the patriotic host suggested that an address in

A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE BARONY OF FORT, IN THE COUNTY OF WEXFORD, TOGETHER WITH A RELATION OF THE DISPOSITION AND SOME PECULIAR CUSTOMS OF THE ANTIENT AND PRESENT NATIVE INHABITANTS THEREOF.

The deficiencies in any respect of what pertinentlie merits to have been inserted in the ensuing rude Essay of Description will, it is

the old Barony Forth dialect would be a novelty not quite out of the way. The idea was approved of generally, but the Rev. P. Walsh, P. P., Lady's Island, met it with the greatest warmth. A rough copy having been prepared, the Rev. Mr. Walsh called to his aid two or three of his parishioners considered the most proficient in the old tongue. He explained to them his wishes, and for some time all went on well; but, finally, difficulties began. Though quite fluent in their ordinary conversation, as translators they became timid, confused, and incompetent. It being an object of special desire to compliment Earl Mulgrave on the emancipation of the slaves—the blacks—when he was Governor in Jamaica, the phrase became an insurmountable stumbling block. *Emancipator*, having no synonyme in the Barony Forth, and other similar words—pronounce them as long and as broad as you may, on the paper was the same identical word still. Difficulties increased, and the session was broken up. Disappointed, but not totally downcast, the Rev. Mr. Walsh, having business into Wexford the next day, did me the honour of calling on me, told me of Mr. Talbot's wish and his own approval of it, explained what he had done and the difficulties he had met, warmly requesting my co-operation. Having a strong attachment to my native barony, and as the spot for the delivery of the Address was almost that of my childhood, I felt anxious, but timid, in undertaking the task. Aware of the trammels of a translation, I stipulated that taking special care of the "Emancipator of the Slaves," and some other minor details, I was to be perfectly free in everything else. Little thinking of the matter ever having anything beyond a mere ephemeral life, it was sketched and engrossed, and ready for presentation when the interesting day arrived. For the accuracy of this account of the origin and progress of the Barony Forth Address, I can respect-

fully appeal to the Rev. P. Walsh, who took the greatest interest in it all through. The most remarkable fact, in reality, in connexion with the Address is this:—In all probability it was the first time regal or vice-regal ears were required to listen to words of such a dialect; and it is even still more probable that a like event will never happen again; for if the use of this old tongue dies out as fast for the next five-and-twenty years as it has for the same by-gone period, it will be utterly extinct and forgotten before the present century shall have closed.

"In order for a person not acquainted with the pronunciation of the dialect to form anything like an idea of it, it is first necessary to speak slowly, and remember that the letter *a* has invariably the same sound, like *a* in 'father.' Double *ea* sounds as *e* in 'me,' and in most words of two syllables the long accent is placed on the last. To follow the English pronunciation completely deprives the dialect of its peculiarities.

"A sign having been given to the writer of this paper, he advanced, and had the honour of reading the following Address:—

"*To's Eccellencie, Constantine Harrie Phipps, y' Earle Mulgrave, "Lord Lieutenant-General, and General Governor of Ireland."* Ye soumissive Spakeen o'ouz Dwelleres o' Baronic Forthe, Weisforthe.

"*"MAI'T BE PLESANT TO TH' ECCELLENCIE,—Wee, Vassales o' "His Most Gracious Majesty," Wilyame ee Vourthe, an az wee verilie chote na coshe an loyale Dwelleres na Baronie Forthe, crave na dicke luckie acte t'uck neicher th' Eccellencie, an na plaine garbe o' oure yola talke, wi vengem o' core t'gie oure zense o' ye grades whilke be ee dighte wi yer name, an whilke we canna zei, albeit o' "Governere," "Statesman," an alike. Ynercha an al o' while yt beeth wi gleezom o' core th' oure eyen dwytheth apan ye Vigere o'dicke Zouvereine, Wilyame*

hoped, excite some more perspicaciously solid and discreet person, more politelie exact, to supplie; who may add or abbreviate, correct, alter, or expunge what is either imperfectlie or improperly expressed, relating to place, matter, or person; nothing intention-

ee Yourthe, unnere fose fatherlie zwae oure daiez be ee spant, az avare ye trad dicke londe yer name waz ee kent var ee *Vriene o' Libertie*, an *He fo brake ye neckares o' Zlaves*. Mang ourzels—var wee dwytheth an Irelande az oure generale haime—y'ast bie ractzom o'honde ee delt t'ouze ye laas ee mate var ercha vassale, ne'er dwytheth na dicke waie nar dicka. Wee dwyth ye ane fose dais be gien var ee gudevare o' ye londe ye zwae,—t'avance pace an livertie, an wi'oute vlynch, ee garde o' generale reights an poplare vartue. Ye pace—yea we mai zei, ye vaste pace whilke bee ee stent ovr ye londe zince th'ast ee cam, proo'th, y'at wee alane needeth ye giftes o' generale rights, az be displayte bie ee factes o' thie goveremente. Ye state na dicke daie o' ye londe, na whilke be nar fash nar moile, albiet "Constitutional Agitation," ye wake o' hopes ee bligthe, stampe na yer zwae be rare an lightzom. Yer name var zetch avancet avare ye, e'en a dicke var hye, arent whilke ye brine o' zea an ye craggas o'noghanez cazed nae balke. Na oure glades ana whilke we dellt wi' mattoke an zing t'oure caules wi' plou, wee hert ee zough o'ye colure o' pace na name o' *Mulgrave*. Wi Irishmen owe generale hopes be ee bond—az Irishmen, an az Dwelleres na cosh an loyale o' Baronie Forthe, w'oul daie an ercha daie, oure meines an oure gurlas, praie var long an happie zins, shorne o' lournagh an ee vilt wi' benissons, an yerzel an oure gude Zovereine, till ee zin o'oure daies be var aye be ee go t'glade.'

"*To His Excellency, Constantine Henry Phipps, Earl Mulgrave, Lord Lieutenant-General and General Governor of Ireland. The humble Address of the Inhabitants of the Barony Forth, Wexford.*

"**MAY IT PLEASE YOUR EXCELLENCY**—We, the subjects of his Most Gracious Majesty, William IV., and as we truly believe both faithful and loyal inhabitants of the Barony Forth, beg leave at this favourable opportunity to approach your Excellency, and in the simple dress of our old dialect to pour forth from the strength (or fullness) of our hearts, our

sense (or admiration) of the qualities which characterise your name, and for which we have no words but of "Governor," "Statesman," &c. In each and every condition, it is with joy of heart that our eyes rest upon the representative of that Sovereign, William IV., under whose paternal rule our days are spent; for before your foot pressed the soil, your name was known to us as *the Friend of Liberty*, and *he who broke the fetters of the Slave*. Unto ourselves—for we look on Ireland to be our common country—you have with impartial hand ministered the laws made for every subject, without regard to this party or that. We behold in you one whose days are devoted to the welfare of the land you govern, to promote peace and liberty—the uncompromising guardian of common rights and public virtue. The peace—yes, we may say the profound peace—which overspreads the land since your arrival, proves that we stood alone in need of the enjoyment of common privileges, as is demonstrated by the results of your government. The condition, this day, of the country, in which is neither tumult nor disorder, but that constitutional agitation the consequence of disappointed hopes, confirms your rule to be rare and enlightened. Your fame for such came before you even into this retired spot, to which neither the waters of the sea below nor the mountains above caused any impediment. In our valleys, where we were digging with the spade, or as we whistled to our horses in the plough, we heard the distant sound of the wings of the dove of peace, in the word *Mulgrave*. With Irishmen our common hopes are inseparably bound up—as Irishmen, and as inhabitants, faithful and loyal, of the Barony Forth, we will daily and every day, our wives and our children, implore long and happy days, free from melancholy and full of blessings, for yourself and our good Sovereign, until the sun of our lives be gone down the dark valley (of death)."

Although this Address was not the genuine production of the peasantry of Forth, yet it is worth preserving.—**ED. OF JOURNAL.**

ally herein designed to calumniate any whosoever mencioned or concerned.

Qui veritatem celat et qui mendacium prodit uterque reus, ille quia prodesse non vult iste quia nocere desiderat.—*St. Augustin.*

Suum cuique decus posteritas rependet.—*Tacitus.*

Description of any region conduceth to the illustration of more exact and ample history. And—

Historia est testis temporum, Lux veritatis, Vita Memoriae, Magistra Vitae, Nuncia Vetustatis.—*Cicero.*

As the County of Wexford, immediatlíe after the Conquest of the Kingdome of Ireland by Henry II., King of England, was honoured by the primier English Colony introduced and planted at Bannoe,¹ [which was] then made a corporate towne, favoured and adorned with extraordinary priviledges and immunityes comprized in its Charter,—soe the said County's Inhabitants (*cæteris paribus*) ever since in all publike assemblies, civil conventions, and military expeditions had indisputable allowed them precedency in nomination and order throughout all parts of the Kingdome of Ireland.²

The said County comprehends and is subdivided into eight Baronyes, vizt. :—

Fort,	}	Called English baronyes.
Bargye,		
Shilbirne,		
Shilmalier,		
Bantry,		
Scarawailsh,	}	Irish. ³
Ballaghgeene,		
Gowry,		

The Barony of Fort, on all emergencyes of publike concerne in the said county, precedeth and hath pre-eminence.⁴ The Gentry and Inhabitants thereof first in all courts called, and in time of

¹ Probably Bannow was the oldest corporate town in Ireland. Its charter is referred to in that of Ross—"Chartæ, Privilegia et Immunitates," printed to p. 92 by the Irish Record Commission.

² I have not found this statement borne out. From the thirteenth to the seventeenth century, the county of Wexford was so isolated, or cut off from the other English parts of Ireland, that during disturbed times even mere communication was difficult, and the shire was not reck-

oned as a portion of the pale, partly because, as a "liberty" or palatinate, its government was unmixed with that of the rest of "English" Ireland.

³ These "Irish" baronies were not created into baronies till the reign of James I.

⁴ This statement is borne out by a summons. enrolled in Birmingham Tower, to the Wexford gentry, in 1345, in which the men of the barony Forth are named next after the knights.

Warre, Expeditions, Rising in Arms (in order to the opposing and suppressing turbulent seditions, factions, or knowen declared rebels), some one prime Gentleman thereof had the conduct and command of forces raised in the said County.

The said Barony in longitude extends from the north-west part of the Commons¹ of Wexford, inclusive, unto the extreamest point of Carne, Kemp's Cross,² about tenn miles. Its breadth, dilated from the west side of the Mountain of Fort, six miles, comprehending, by ancient computacion, 20,000 acres of arable land, naturally not fertile, but by the sollicitously ingenious industry and indefatigable labour of the Inhabitants, soe improved and reduced to that fecundious perfection, that it abounds with all sorts of excellent Bread-corne, and Graine, Gardens, orchards, fruits, Sweet Hearbs, Meadows, pasture for all sorts of cattle (wherewithall it's plentifully furnished), not much inferiour, if not equivalent, to the best in Ireland, though not generally soe great in body or stature.

The inhabitants commonly use pacing Naggs, singularly performant in travaille, and easily kept in good case.

Theyre Farms are soe diligentlie and exactlie hedged and fenced, that Neighbours very seldome trespass one another; they greatlie sowe Fyrse seeds, or plant the same in Rowes some few Ridges distant, which ordinarily in few yeares grow 8 or 10 foot in height, and to that bigness and strength, that (better timber being there deficient) dwelling howses are therewith all roofed;³ it alsoe, in the extremeest violence of winter tempests, affords their horses, sheepe, and goates both food and shelter; being planted in the hedges, it becomes singular fence for theyre corne fields, and afterwards theyre onely fuell on all occasions; being cutt or grubbed in March, makes the clearest flame, the most lasting, hardest, and hoatest coale of any firewood (except juniper), with least quantity of Ashes.

The whole Barony, at a distance viewed in Time of Harvest, represents a well cultivated garden, with diversified plotts.

There are therein very many incomparablie cleare and wholesome Springs and Fountains, dedicated to some Saints, which frequently have been experienced medicinall, Infirme persons drinking thereof, or being therein bathed.

There are small Rivers at Killaloke, Athsaly, Ballibrenan, and Loyne,⁴ into which the Ocean flowes from a spacious Bay or Indraught, entering at the ostium or Haven's mouth and Barre of Wexford, replenished with variety and abundance of Base, Mullet, Flookes, Eeles, Hakes, Herrings, Oysters, Cockles, Muskles, &c., soe

¹ This is the common land on the mountain of Forth.

² This cross was on the point of Carnsore. It is now defaced and levelled.

³ Furze wood was used for the *watlin*.

(little wood) or wicker-work to which the thatch was fastened. Until the close of the last century, almost every dwelling-house was so roofed.

⁴ Now Kerlogue, and Ford of Lyng.

as Herrings have been sold at 3*d.* per Meise, consisting of 612. It is innumerable supplied with divers kinds of wilde fowle, Widgeon, Shildrake, Kearling, Ducke, Teale, pluvier, &c. ; with Barnacles becoming in the month of May so ponderously fatt, that not having activity nor strength to flie, are by the adjacent inhabitants in small boats pursued and taken. They are not produced nor breed in theis parts, are never hardly from thence three months absent, yet returning are found to be of the ordinary proportion of equal corpulency. It is the received opinion (as in the Irish History and Scottish description of blacke Geese) that they have their originall and naturall production from pieces of Timber longe remaining in the ocean, and cannot but improperly be esteemed flesh.

The Bay hath severall ample and navigable channells, not in other parts overflowed by the sea (excepting on spring tides) above the depth of five foote; it extends from south to north four or five miles, in breadth not so large: on the east side hath an Isthmus or peninsula called Roslare, with sandy bankes extended northward about four miles. At the end thereof was a forte,¹ by the citizens of Wexford erected for defence of Entrance at the Barre, but demolished by Cromwell. There the noble faire River Slane, having its original in Wickloe Mountains, into which fall the rapid Rivers Banna, Claddagh, Bealaborow, with many less remarkable saluting Wexford, payes its incessantlie abounding Tribute to the ocean; from thense navigable to a completely builded and pleasantlie situated corporat Towne, Iniscorthy, adorned and fortified with a spacious Castle and sumptuous Howse, with adjoining Territoryes worth per annum £1,700, anciently appertaining to the Wallops, in England, untill diabolically Instigation prompted its proprietor to imbrue his impious hands in his soveraign's sacred Blood, and become Regicide.

This River derives its denomination from its experimentally noted signall Effects, Slane signifying in the Irish dialect Health, being, in the quantity of a quart by many ounces known less ponderous or earthy then any spring water in Ireland.

There is opposite to Wexford, on the East side, a petty Island called Beggerin, in English signifying little Ireland, in which is a Chapel dedicated to St. Ibarius, or Ivorus, celebrated and much frequented by infirm pilgrims, departing, after performance of accustomed pious devotion, with consolatory Ease to theyre Maladyes, at which place hath been of late dayes shewen stupendous Miracles. D. Usher mentioned this saint.—(L[iber] de primord. Eccles.) There is another Island a little Eastward from Beggerin—Great Island; also the Island of Roslare, South-east thereof.

¹ This implies that the fort was built during "the troubles" of 1642-9, when

Wexford ships were notoriously active in the narrow seas.

It was observed, in the time of Giraldus Cambrensis, that when the sea ebbs at Bristoll, it ebbs at Dublin, and flowes at Wexford and Milfoord, and that it is in its Reflux at Wicklowe when in all them severall parts it flowes.—(Cam. L. i., Top. dist. 2, num. 3-4.)

It was observed, when the above-mentioned Forte at the Barre of Wexford was builded, there was no fresh water near to be found, untill the sandy banke, neere adjacent, was a great depth digged, whence issued aboundantlie very pure, sweet water to a great height, decreasing when the sea does flow at the said Barres, and during the ebbing space did augment, and was replenished to its accustomed height, retaining always its first purity and taste. An East Moon makes full sea at the aforesaid Barre.

There is in the south part of that Barony a Lake called Lough Togher,¹ neere three miles in length, halfe neere as broad, into which is extended an Ismus or Tongue of Land named Our Lady's Ile, at the Entrance whereof is a longe causey, or rather Bridge (from whence the Lough hath its denomination), having at its end a small turret erected before the Castle Gate, in the midst of a strong stone wall with Battlement, extending from the East side into the water.

Within this Ismus (containing twelve acres) is a Church, builded and dedicated to the glorious and immaculate virgin Mother; by impotent and infirme pilgrims, and a Multitude of persons of all Qualities from all provinces and parts of Ireland, daily frequented, and with fervent devotion visited, who, praying and making some oblacions, or extending charitable Benevolence to Indigents there residing, have been miraculously cured of grievous Maladyes, and helped to the perfect use of naturally defective Limmes, or accidentally enfeebled or impaired Sences.

This Lough was observed, about the time his sacred Majesty Charles I. was murdered, during twenty-four hours to have appeared of a crimson, sanguine Coloure.

It is once in four or five years opened, evacuating itselfe into the sea, a passage being cut by command of Squire Cod, of Castletowne,²

¹ Now Lough Tay. Togher is Gaelic for causeway.

² It would seem that this "Squire Cod" was by name John, and a Protestant, mentioned in the parish registries of Wexford, in which we find that Anne Cod, of Castletown, married, in 1668, the Rev. Thos. Bunbury, of Balesker, and that Jane Cod married Thomas Richards, Esq., of the Park, and afterwards of Rathaspic. There was also Loftus Cod, of Castletown, gent., whose will, dated 1696, is at Enniscorthy. This family came over at an early date from Cornwall, where they owned Morwell, *temp.* Ric. II.

Traditionally, Sir Osborne Codde is said to have been one of the knights who accompanied Fitz-Stephen, and to have built the towers of Cloeast and Castletown. In 1476, Nicholas and Martin Codde were required to appear before parliament, or lose their title in three ploughlands in Rathaspic. This latter was "Martin Codde of Castleton," the first-mentioned in the heraldic visitation: his son, Osborne, m. a sister of Comyn, bishop of Waterford; their son, Nicholas, d. in 1571, leaving Martin, of Castletown and of Rathaspic, who mar. Margaret, da. of Alexander Roche, lord of Roches-

which during a few months continuing open, flows and ebbs, whereat enters abundance of fry or small fish, untill by violence of Tempest the Gappe is by running sand obstructed, wherein that yong Fish detained becomes extraordinary great and fatt, especially Base and Mullet, Whittings, Herrings, incomparable large, solid, and thicke, Flounders, extraordinary great fatt Eeles, &c. There is in the midst of that Logh a small Island, wherein wilde fowle laye abundance of Egges yearlie; many Rabbets breide therein alsoe.

Loghsale is situate on the west of the said Logh, not soe long nor large, about a mile distant; sometimes by violence of Tempest and small Rivers falling thereinto it breaks its sandy cloyster, running into the next adjacent Sea, the passadg remaining open, and the sea there flowing and ebbing, gives admittance to such fishes as the forsaid Logh is replenished withall, besides faire Oysters and other shell fishes.

Both these Loghes have abundant variety of wilde fowle as the Bay neere Wexford, and tame and wild swannes frequent.

There have been by the Danes,¹ upon their first invasion of that Barony, many places with high Rampires fortyfied, commonlie a mile distant one from another, of an orbicular forme, in which they did encamp, called Rathes, amongst which the most remarkablie ample and terrible was the Rath of Ballitrent,² on the sea Banke erected on theyre first Arrivall, raised and strengthened with two Rampires, each forty foot thicke and neere sixty feet distant, circularlie the diameter of the inmost being towards one hundred geometrical paces, situated on the east side of that Barony, from which (conspicuous many miles distant) the said Barony is said to have had its originall denomination.

Another notable fortification, about the same time and occasion raised neere Wexford (on which afterwards King John³ built

land, and begot Nicholas, marshal of Wexford Liberty in 1599, and slain the year following, during his father's lifetime, leaving Martin Codde, who, agreeably with a printed inquisition, was seised of the manor of Codde, *alias* Mulderick (red moor) and other lands, with suit of court of the barony of the manor, as appears by an ancient writing made by Osbert Fitz John Codde. He died in 1627, a Protestant, leaving Nicholas, who succeeded him, and several other children. The estate is understood to have been divided among three heiresses, one of whom was Mrs. Richards, of Rathaspic. The mother of the poet Moore was of this family, and lived in the Corn-market, Wexford.

¹ Tradition erroneously attributes all such earth-works to the Danes. They

seem to be nothing but defensible cattle-folds. I have shown, in a prefatory passage, that the Irish, like the Britons, fortified themselves by "plashing" the woods.

² This rath forms the beautiful and singular garden of the residence of John H. Talbot, Esq. Its rampiers, by forming a shelter from the sea-breezes, render it an oasis on that exposed coast.

³ This king does not appear, by Hardy's account of his progress, to have been at Wexford. The castle was probably built by Geoffrey, son of Robert Fitz-Stephen, at the time he constituted the town a borough. It was afterwards the principal fortress of the Lords of the Liberty.

M. de la Boullaye le Gouz, the French traveller, who visited this place in May, 1644, says:—"This town is very popu-

a sumptuous and impregnable Castle, yet extant), on the west side of that Barony, from the situation whereof the contiguous towne (as by tradition related) is denominated, first called West Fort, in tract of time by the vulgar corruptlie intituled Weisfort,¹ and finally (as now) called Wexford.

The ancient Gentry and Inhabitants of that Barony deryve their originall Extraction lineally from England, theyre predecessors having bene officers² in the Army under the conduct of Fitz-Stephens,³ who first invaded Ireland. Suddenlie after the conquest thereof, distinct Allotments of land according to theyre respective qualities and merits were assigned them, which, untill the Cromwellian usurpacion and Government, they did, during the 500 years, almost compleat, without any diminution, or addition, peacable and contentedlie possess; never attainted nor convicted of any crime meriting forfeiture; soe frugally prudent in their expences, and sollicitous to improve and preserve hereditary peculiar interest, that noe Revolution of Time, disastrous accidents, Government, nor advantageous proposed motives whatsoever could induce, nor force them to

lous, owing to its great commerce. The fortress is a small square, regularly enough fortified, and washed by the sea. At the foot of this castle are many ruins of old churches, amongst others that of the Holy Trinity, for which the women have great reverence, and come there in solemn procession. The oldest walk first, and the others follow; then take three turns round the ruins, make a reverence to the remains, kneel, and recommence this ceremony many times. I have noticed them at this devotion three and four hours."

¹ The spelling in old records is usually Weysford and Weisford. Probably the word is Scandinavian, viz., Wash-fiord, signifying a fiord, or sea-lake, the slob-land of which is washed by every tide, like the Wash in Lincolnshire. M. le Gouz says that "Wachefort" is, in French, "the washed fort."

² The feudal, or subordinate military policy, was so thoroughly adopted in the Wexford land tenures, as to warrant this idea that each original officer of the invading force obtained a fee of land as his pay, and for future services.

³ Robert Fitz-Stephen, the first Anglo-Norman adventurer in Ireland, was illegitimate son of Stephen de Marisco, constable of Cardigan, and was nephew to Herve de Marisco. Marisco, or De Monte Marisco, was his surname, and this circumstance connects him with Herve, the founder of Dunbrody, with the Maris-

cos, a line of early English barons, and, according to the Morres family, with the French Montmorencys. The hold he and Herve obtained in this county is obscure. It seems that he received Wexford and some adjacent districts from Dermot Mac Murrough; and he is said to have surrendered his grant to Henry II., who conferred it on Strongbow. Subsequently, King Henry enfeoffed Robert Fitz-Stephen and Miles de Cogan of the lordship of Desmond, excepting the city of Cork and the lands of the Ostmen there, to hold each by thirty knights' fees. Robert being a bastard, and dying without heirs of his body, had no legitimate heirs; yet appears to have left natural sons, for "Y-fee-Stephens" is mentioned in an old record as one of the magnates of Munster. Yet, although this eminent adventurer made an enterprise into the south-west, he appears to have retained his lordship of Wexford, probably as feudatory to Strongbow, who became lord of Leinster. His son, Geoffrey, constituted Wexford a borough, was baron of Kells, in the county of Kilkenny, and died s. p. in 1211. Two of Geoffrey's sons, William and John, are mentioned in a charter to Kells, *temp.* John. About 1247, Juliana de Marisco married Henry le Butler. (Archdall's "Monasticon.") Some information, showing how his family lost Wexford, is a desideratum.

quit their possessions, or alienate them, narrow in extent, and inconsiderable in Revenue (but some elsewhere acquired valuable additional Estates);¹ many Gentlemen and freeholders being there interested, who, to perpetuate the memory of their progenitors and families, always conferred their real Estates on their male progeny or next heir male,² descending lineally in consanguinity; soe that there are, untill this day, many gentlemen's habitacions and villages retaining the names of their first conquering possessors, as, Sinnottstowne, Hayestowne, Sigginstowne, &c., but by the late proprietors were ejected, and remaine exiled.

They retain their first Language³ (old Saxon English), and almost onely understand the same, unless elsewhere educated; and untill some few years past, observed the same form of Apparell theyre predecessors first theyre used.⁴

The Natives (descended as aforesaid), inviolable profess and maintaine the same Faith and forme of Religious divine worships

¹ This statement is borne out by these instances. The Synnotts obtained large additional properties throughout the shire. Sir Nicholas Chevers, of Ballyhaly, ancestor of Lord Mountleinster, acquired a large estate in Meath; and Chevers, of Killiane, obtained a property in the north of the shire. The Hays, of the Hill, had Castlehaystown, in the fassagh or waste of Bantry. The Brownes, of Mulranken, built a castle near Taghmon, and another near Enniscorthy (still known by their surname), and thereby rescued the adjacent land from the Irish. The Meylers, of Duncormack, owned Priestshaggard, and a considerable property there, and had much difficulty in defending it from the Irish, *temp.* Elizabeth.

² In opposition to the Celtic custom of tanistry and male gavel, but on the salique law of excluding females. This custom of descent was peculiar to Anglo-Irish baronial honours, which almost invariably follow the male line. The cause is to be found in the dangerous state of the colonists, which rendered it necessary to bar women from inheritance.

³ See prefatory remarks and note, p. 56, *supra*. As to the origin of the barony of Forth people, *vide* Vallancey's "Collectanea," Stanyhurst's "Description of Ireland," Wakefield's "Statistics," and a letter of the gentry of the county Wexford to Sir Henry Wallop, printed in Collins' "Peerage."

⁴ It is regretful that our author did not describe the old costume, or custo-

mary garb, of these colonists. According to the *Irish Hudibras*, a doggrel satire printed in May, 1689, "the dress of a Fingallian woman" was "a gown of finest scarlet frieze," above which she wore certain "coats," looped up in a jaunty fashion; but the rest of the portrait is a cruel caricature:—

"Her waist as slender as her cows;
With a white curchef on her brows;
About her ears, her golden mane
Hung down like packthread dyed in grain."

The barony of Forth women wore, within the memory of man, a peeked beaver hat, like that worn in Wales, and by Mother Bunch on the stage; and a laced dark cloth boddicer, with skirts of brown stuff, trimmed with rows of red galloon. M. le Gouz, who was in Wexford in 1644, noticed the napkin worn as a coif "in the manner of the Egyptians." This resembled the eastern turban, or roll of linen, more than the curchef of the Italian women in Raphael's paintings. Maidens were distinguished by having their tresses bound up by a simple riband. The French traveller observed the short boddices, and the gathered-up petticoats, which thrifty women, when at work, girded up with their sashes. He also mentions the women's hats, and says their mantles were very large, of a brown colour, and "of which," says he, "the cape is of coarse woollen frize, in the fashion of the women of Lower Normandy." "The people of Wachefort," he asserts, "came principally from France."

theire first Ancestors in Ireland believed and exercised,¹ which the violent and severe Tempests of persecutions wherewithall they were frequentlie afflicted, Imprisonment, Loss of Goods, threatened forfeiture of Lands, nor any penal Laws were prevalent to alter: though their conformity would have been a meane and steppe to beneficiall advancement, Ecclesiastical and Civil. They are generally zealous in their Religious profession, having very many remarkable Monuments extant of the pious zeal and devotion of their progenitors, in the aforesaid narrow extent of that Barony; wherein ancientlie were erected, and the precincts and walls yet extant visiblie, of Churches and Chappells, first firmelie builded and richlie adorned for divine service, in the several peeces or parishes, Catalogue² of some of which are hereafter expressed:—

In Rathaspocke peece,³ a Church dedicated to St. Bridget, patroness of Ireland.

A Church dedicated to St. Peter, Apostle, near Wexford, latelie demolished;⁴ a Church dedicated to St. Mary Magdalen,⁵ latelie become ruinous, having been profanely, as a Dwelling House, inhabited.

An Hospital for Leapers⁶ adjoining, now ruinous; the houses and lands thereunto ancientlie appertaining, and the revenue given the Soldiery.

A Chapel dedicated to St. Michael Arch.,⁷ neere Wexford. A Chapel dedicated to the B. Trinity, on Castle Hills, both which last were demolished, and their materials converted to the fortification of the Castle, neere Wexford, by the usurper.⁸

A Church and Steeple dedicated to St. John Evang., neere Wexford; demolished, and its stones and materials converted to profane uses as aforesaid.

¹ On the point of religion, the inquiring reader may refer to a letter written at Wexford by Justice Cressy, printed in Strafford's letters; and to Bishop Ram's statement as to the spiritual condition of his diocese.

² The above catalogue shows that the single barony under consideration possessed no less than eighteen churches, thirty-three chapels, one religious hospital, and two convents. It is to be remembered that, in ages when roads either were not, or were impassable, it was necessary to have numerous houses for divine worship.

³ Rathaspocke, i. e., Rath-eapruic, 'fort of the bishop,' now the parish of that name. The present church is a modern building.

⁴ St. Peter's was just outside the walls. There are no remains.

⁵ Now called Maudlontown.

⁶ Lepers' hospitals were numerous throughout Ireland. They seem to have been filled with patients suffering from scorbutic affection, caused by eating unseasonable salmon and other salted food, both which formed principal articles of animal food during winter, prior to the adoption of modes of feeding cattle which render them available during this season of the year. These asylums were usually situated outside and at some distance from towns. The prior of the lazar-house at Lismore had authority over all lepers in Ireland.

⁷ St. Michael's, of Feagh, or Faythe. *Faithce* (fahy) means *platea* or green, and is applied to the flat space sometimes attached to raths; it is equivalent to "a green."

⁸ No doubt used to repair the damage done by battery in Cromwell's siege of Wexford in 1649.

A Convent for friars of St. Francis, neere Wexford, with an elaboratlie sumptuous Chappell,¹ with a spacious walled precinct, ruined.

A Convent or Habitation for Knights Templars at Killaloke,² decayed.

In Rathmaknee peece, a Church ded. to St. Martin,³ become lately ruinous.

A Chapel dedicated to St. Catherine, at Wailshestowne.

A Church dedicated to St. Devan,⁴ lately become ruinous.

A Chap. dedicated to St. Catherine, at Mowrontowne.

In Maglass-peece, a Church dedicated to St. Fintan, at Maglass,⁵ where also hath been a sumptuous ancient house, the Deane of Fearnese his Mansion, ruined.

A Chapel dedicated to St. ———, at Tagunnan.⁶

In Dreinogh peece, a Church dedicated to All Saints at Kilmacry,⁷ demolished; its materials profaned.

A Church dedicated to St. Kevan, at Dreyngogh.⁸

A Church ded. to St. Jeffellen,⁹ at Great Killian.

A Chapel ded. to St. Deiguian at Little Killian, ruined latelie.

In Ballimore peece, a Church ded. to the B. Virgin Mother, ruined; the Golden Chalice thereof plundered by Cromwellians.

A chapel ded. to the same.

In Ballibrenan peece, a Church ded. to St. Kevil, demolished, its Bells and materials profaned.

A Chappell dedicated to Seaven Saints, Sisters at one Birth brought forth, at Ballibrenan,¹⁰ commonlie called in Irish *Shaght Eneen Eee*,¹¹

¹ Unfortunately there are no remains of this building, which appears to have been unusually ornate.

² Now Killiloge, vulgarly Kerlogue, a small parish of three townlands. A folio volume of MSS., in the State Paper Office, dated 1541, contains an extent of the possessions of the late dissolved monasteries, priories, and other religious houses in Wexford.

³ St. Martin, though a foreigner, was a favourite saint amongst the Irish, nominally in virtue of St. Patrick's alleged relationship to him, but really on account of the intimacy between the Church of Tours and the early missionaries to Ireland.

⁴ Probably a mistake for Kevan.

⁵ This was Fintan, son of Gabhrain. His acts are given by Colgan, Feb. 17. See Acta SS., pp. 349-357. This church is one of the largest. A handsome doorway, with circular ornamented arch, remains. The dean's house was near the present chapel.

⁶ A name now changed to "Mount-pleasant."

⁷ Now the parish of Kilmacree.

⁸ Now Drinagh parish; the patron is St. Kevan, *Hibernice* Caemham. Ardcavan, in Shelmalier East, is *Qpō Caemham*. This saint was commemorated as Caomhan of Ard Caomhain, by Loch Garman (Wexford Harbour). A neighbouring island is called Dar-inis-Caemhain.—Colgan, Acta SS., pp. 393, 394.

⁹ Probably for "St. Helen." "St. Helens, *alias* Killiane," is the modern denomination of the parish.

¹⁰ Now the parish of Ballybrennan.

¹¹ *Seacht mēna Aēda*. There is no mention of this commemoration in the Irish calendars, but there occurs "the seven sons of Aedh of Aghrim" at December 20. This sevenfold commemoration both of sons and daughters and bishops is peculiar to Ireland. Pictish clans were divided into "septs" or "seven tribes," there were also British and Caledonian "Heptarchies."

or the seven daughters of Hugh, their father, soe called ; neere which is a fountain wherein young languishing infants being bathed have immediately by the Divine Clemency beene restored to perfect health and strength.

A Chapel dedicated to St. Michael Archangel.

A Chapel ded. to St. Munn,¹ latelie become ruinous.

In Kilscowran² peece, a Chapel dedicated to St. Inicke,³ one of the seven sisters afores^d.

A Church ded. to St. Bridget.

A Chapel to the same at Sladd,⁴ ruined.

A Chapel dedicated to the same at Trummer.

A Chapel ded. to St. Ranlan, at Hill.

A Chapel ded. to St. (.) at Ballimacushen.

In Tacumshan peece, a Church dedicated to St. Munn,⁵ ruined, its Bells and ornaments plundered and profaned.⁶

A Chapel dedicated to St. Catherine, at Tacumshan, ruined, Bells and ornaments profaned.

A Chapel ded. to the same at Ballisampson.

A Chapel ded. to our Lady at Tacumshan.

A Chapel ded. to S. Nicholas, at Ballimakarn.

A Chapel ded. to All Saints, at Ballitory.

In St. Ibarius peece, a Church ded. to St. Ibarius.⁷

A Chapel ded. to St. Anthony, at Fursytown.⁸

A Chap. ded. to St. Catherine, at Butlerston.⁹

A Chapel dedicated to St. Margaret, to whom women are much devoted, their patroness in Travaile with Childe, much visited, ruined.

A Chapel dedicated to the B. V. Mary, at Iland¹⁰ aforesaid, frequently as aforesaid visited.

A Chapel dedicated to St. George, at Rathmore.¹¹

In Carne peece, a Church dedicated to St. Fintan, with a fair howse, the Mansion of the Treasurer of Fernes.

A Chapel ded. to the most holy undivided Trinity, at Carne.

¹ This is Fintan, or Munna, son of Tulchan. His day is Oct. 21. See note in Reeves' "Adamnan's Life of St. Columba."

² Now Kilsoran parish.

³ Killinick. The church is modern, being a second time restored. St. Imochs, or Imoghies, was formerly in the advowson of the Colclough family, together with Bannow.

⁴ A townland in Kilsoran parish.

⁵ See *supra*. Taghmon, in Wexford and Westmeath, are named after this saint, as is also Isertmoon.

⁶ Here is an old tombstone, without

date, bearing the following legend, quite legible, in one line along the edge :—

"Hic jacet Dom. Joões Ingram quodā Rector istius Ecclesiæ, cujus anima tu dōne miserere Deus." The monument seems to be of the early part of the fifteenth century.

⁷ St. Ibar, of Beg Ere, 23rd April; called St. Ivory in patents *temp.* Jac. I.

⁸ A townland in Tacumshane parish.

⁹ Butlerstown, in St. Iberius' parish.

¹⁰ Lady's Island parish. This chapel is in ruins. The stones were used in 1803 to build the modern chapel.

¹¹ Perhaps Rathmore, in St. Iberius' parish.

A Chapel ded. to St. Vake,¹ in pilgrimage frequented by persons afflicted with Toothach, where praying are immediately eased.

A Chap. ded. to St. at Castle Town.

In Kilrane peece, a Church dedicated to St. Rane.

A Chap. ded. to St. at Hiltown.²

A Chap. ded. to St. Nicholas at Ballyconnor,³ ruined.

A Chap. ded. to St. at Ballitrent.

A Chapel dedicated to St. Tullan.⁴

In Roslare peece, a Church⁵ dedicated to the B. V. Mother ; the Bells and ornaments plundered.

A Chap. ded. to St. Breagh,⁶ where latelie miraculous accidents happened, God demonstrating his Indignation with Signal Severity against the contemnners and scoffers of his beatified Servants and profane violators of things and places dedicated to divine service, to the Confusion and immediate Chastisement of impious Blasphemers.

There were very many crosses⁷ in publique Roads, and Crucifixes, in private houses and Churches in the said Barony kept, builded of Stone, Timber, or Metal, representing the dolorous passion of our Saviour Jesus Christ, which, wherever found, were totally defaced, broken, or burned by Cromwellian soldiers. Soe odious in our unfortunate age, became even the Memory of the first Christian Altar that ever was erected, whereon was offered the propitiatory Sacrifice of all Mankind's Redemption. The direption and demolition of the aforesaid Churches and Chapells were perpetrated, and their sacred ornaments profaned, since and during the late Usurper's Government.

The said Barony is very populous, the small villages nere one another, and of narrow extent, hardly any farm contained 200 acres. The native Inhabitants celebrate with singularlie pious Devotion the yearlie festivities, or patron Dayes, as they term them, in the several parishes, in honour of God and his Saints, esteeming him profane (if a constant inhabitant) who doth not on such dayes penitently (by confession to his spiritual pastor) purge his conscience from mortall sinne, be reconciled to his neighbours, and reverently receive the sacred Eucharist. On such festivals, they mutually invite theire neighbouring friends and alliance unto their howses, whom

¹ Now St. Vauk's (Fiacco?), a townland in Carne parish, with ruins of a church.

² Hiltown, in Kilrane parish.

³ Balliconnor chapel is now a stable.

⁴ Perhaps for Tullock, i. e. St. Doologe, or Toologe.

⁵ In ruins—has some faint remains of fresco painting, in red colour, representing antique shipping.

⁶ Pulled down some years ago, and a schoolhouse erected on its site. Is this

saint meant for St. Brioc or St. Bridget?

⁷ Crosses of stone were set up to mark the boundaries of church lands, which were hence called "cross lands." They had a twofold object,—to divert the pagan reverence given to "standing" or boundary "stones," or landmarks; and, by serving as mearings, to define where the respective powers of the king's or sheriff's, the palatine's and the churchmen's authority terminated.

they cheerfully, piouslie, and civilly intertaine, with variety of the best accomodation the country can afford; not without incentive facetiousness and Musical Instruments;¹ noe small motive to foment indissoluble union and Amity amongst them. They seldom dispose of theire Children in Mariadg but unto natives, or such as will determine to reside in that Barony. Soe that generally they are in consanguinity or affinity neerelie related. Theyre Apparell is according the English mode, of very fine, exquisitely cottned² frize, comelie, but not costlie.³ They generally take moderate refection at Morning, Noon, and night; are very vigilant, so as that the Sunne noe day in the yeare can reflect on or surprise any professed Labourer on mornings in bed, or sleeping. Having first recommended themselves and their designs to the Divine tuition and Direction, they proceed in ordering theyre necessary Concerns. In Summer they constantlie desist from all worke about 10 of the clock, and soon after dine, reposing themselves and their Plough-Horses untill about Two of the Clock, during which time all sorts of Cattle are brought home from pasture and kept enclosed. In winter, they constantlie arise before 5 in the morning, applying themselves to some requisite domestic laborious employments. They are very precise and exact in the observacion of Ecclesiasticallie enjoined fasts, never eate flesh on Fridayes or Saturdayes, few use Eggs, Butter, or Milk on Fridayes, abstained always from flesh on Wednesday, and untill about the yeare 1670, they were dispensed with all (or rather commanded the contrary). They are not inclined to debauchery, nor excessively addicted to the use of any Liquor, though they make incomparablie strong, well relished, and cleare Beere and Ale,⁴ very wholesome. Neither is Aqua Vitæ there distilled in taste, colour, or operacō inferior unto any knowne in Ireland; in the use of all which they are abstemious, (if Civil Society sometimes incites them

¹ In an unpublished History of Ireland, written about the year 1636, now remaining in manuscript in the Library of the Royal Irish Academy, Dublin, we are told that, "The Irish are much addicted to musick generally, and you shall find but very few of their gentry, either man or woman, but can play on the harp; also you shall not find a house of any account, without one or two of those instruments, and they always keep a harper to play for them at their meals, and all other times, as often as they have a desire to recreate themselves, or others which come to their houses, therewith."

² i. e. Napped.

³ Sir William Brereton, who was in the county town during the assizes, in the year 1634, describes gentlewomen of quality as attired in "good handsome

gownes, petticoates, and hatts," yet wearing, as mantles, "Irishe ruggs, which have handsome comely large fringes, which goe about their necks, and serve instead of bands." "This rugg fringe," says he, "is joined to a garment which comes round about them, and reacheth to the very ground; and this is a handsomely comely vestment, much more comely as they are used, than the rugg short cloakes used by the women upon festivall dayes in Abbeville, Bullen (Boulogne), and the neare parts of Picardie, in France." Speed's map of Ireland, A. D. 1610, shows that the "civill" Irish men and women, and the "Gentleman and Woman of Ireland," then wore the national mantle.

⁴ Wexford ale was famous down to Dean Swift's day.

not to civilly rational complacency), which together with their ordinary laborious Employments and manly exercises renders them to be of good complexions, firm constitution of health, and consequently to arrive to great maturity of years. They are generally of an indifferent tall stature, of noe despicable feature, clear-skinned, compactlie strong bodied; theyre moderacon in diet securing them from many distempers incident to other Regions occasioned by Sensual Exorbitancyes, whereby a greater number is irrecoverable prejudiced than violentlie by the sword perish. The Quartan fever since Cromwell's usurpation in that Barony (as elsewhere in the afores^d County) much afflicted and destroyed many, its effects before being there hardlie mentioned, much less knowne. At the decease of Neighbours and friends, the parishioners meete, consolating the afflicted, and interring the defunct without any rude Euliations or Clamours, but counterfeit Presentment of seeming sorrow. The Natives are ingenious, and being by Education assisted, apprehensive of the most abstruse and exquisite School learning, wherein many (in all ages and instantlie) have been and are, at home, and in foreign regions, eminent, noe less honoured and admired for prudence and piety; neither are they stupid nor inferior in the knowledge and practise of Mechanicke Arts by them professed, very laborious and industrious, especially in what relates to Agriculture. Averse to Litigiousness, honest, reall, and candid in theyre negociations, affable and hospitious to Civill Strangers, to none voluntarilie injurious, seldom or never any Robbery or Felony there committed.¹ None so remiss or lazy, but endeavour to acquire a Livelihood, and competent Subsistance, soe that there is hardly any vagrant native Beggar amongst them, that is not very impotent. Unalterable loyal to their Prince, in theyre Allegiance, upon all Tumults, Revolutions, and Rebellions in Ireland, exposing themselves and Interests to the greatest perills in defence of the Crowne of England, signally demonstrated and performed during Queen Eliz. Reigne; in which Ingagements and other like occasions, when frequent Incursions were in hostile manner made into the County of Wexford, by seditiouslie disposed and rebellious persons, the Gentry of the said Barony, to the effusion of theyre Bloud and sacrificing their lives (seconded by the Loyall Comminalty) confronted and repelled the Common Enemy, vindicating and preserving the envied honoure of theyre predecessors' Loyaltie to theyre dread Sovereigne, frustrating the Designs of such as attempted to retard or obstruct the acceptance and submission unto his Majesties' Authority in order to the Establishment of a perfect and happy peace, annis 1646-47-48.

It is observable that before the late Commotions in Ireland, anno 1641, and the usurper's invasion, there were divers protestant

¹ A lock on a door was unusual to a late period in the district.

Ministers¹ constantlie resident in the said Barony, receiving and enjoying Tythes and other Emoluments appendant to their parish Church, having hardlie any native a proselite, entertaining Roman Catholique servants, lived peaceably and securely, all neighbourlie human good offices being twixt them and the native inhabitants exactlie performed; Discrepancy in principles of Faith or points of Religious worship noe way exciting Discord, Animosity, Aversion, or opprobrious contumelie in word or act, one of the other:—An evident Demonstration of the innate propension of the inhabitants to humanity and Affection of Tranquillity.

The mansion howses of most Gentry in the said Barony were fortified with Castles, some neere 60 foot high, having walls at least 5 foot thicke, of Quadrangle forme, erected (as is supposed) by the Danes,² to the number of Thirty, of which very few as yet becom ruinous. Theyre howses built with Stone-walls Sclated; having spacious Halls, in the Center of which were fire Hearthes (according the ancient English mode) for the more commodious extension of heat to the whole family, surrounding it (but that forme is antiquated), all howses at present haveing Chimneys. Plebeians have theyre habitacons compleatlie built with Mudwalls soe firme and high as they frequentlie raise Loftes thereon, after that form they finde most convenient for husbandry Businesses; neate, well accommodated with all necessary Implements, more Civilie and Englishlike contrived than vulgarlie elsewhere in many parts of Ireland.

None of the Cominalty or plebeian natives of that Barony was transplanted or banished by the Usurper's Substitutes, onely such as were signally knowne and accused to have persevered in theyre Loyaltie in bearing Armes for his Majesty of England. Virtue and inoffensive deportment sometime moves Tyranny itself to appeare exorable, and seemingly Element, deluding vulgar apprehensions,

¹ Bishop Ram's statement, and Justice Cressy's letter confirm this statement. The Earl of Anglesey, in a letter to Lord Castlehaven A. D. 1681, refers thus to the state of the country:—"I remember very well, the summer before the rebellion, the titular bishop of Ferns coming to his visitation into the county of Wexford, where I then dwelt, at the request of a popish priest, I lent most of my silver plate to entertain the said bishop with, and had it honestly returned."

² This supposition, that these square towers were constructed by the Danes, is undoubtedly erroneous. That people, as Ostmen, had not spread much into the country, and are believed to have built in the circular form, as Hook Tower, and that called Reginald's at

Waterford. As to the actual date of erection of some keeps, there is certain information inscribed on stones over their doors. Adamstown tower was built in 1556; Ballymackane, in 1616; Ballyconnor, in 1580. These abodes, which are smaller than most of the "piles" on the Scottish frontier, appear miserably small and deficient in accommodation; but the single tower we see is a mere remnant and the oldest part of the dwelling-place as it was when inhabited. Its "howse" had a "spacious hall" and offices, usually constructed, as was the contemporary fashion in England, of timber frames, filled up with woodwork and clay. These fragile parts of the tenement perished, from arson during war, and subsequently from age.

whereas really political self Ends, which by Universall Eradicacion (at once) of the natives could not be accomplished, were the sole motives of such pernicious Indulgencies, tending to the exhausting theyre substance in the support of the Usurper's Army, the enriching and Advancement of his then indigent favourites, and the inevitable poverty, ruin, and servitude of the miserable contributors, when by theyre slavish labors anything considerable accrued, like replenished sponges to squeeze them. Add thereunto the premeditated grand design of succeeding Transplantation, irrecoverable to render the expelled loyall Gentry Calamitous—being thereby deprived of the attendance of theyre servants and assisting dependants¹ in theyre greatest distress and deplorable exile. “*Malus, ubi bonum se simulat, tunc est pessimus.*” Practising that Nero-nian axiom, “*Hoc agamus ne quis quicquam habeat*, and imitating Caligula's cruelty by insupportable exactions, Slowelie but severelie inducing lamentable consumptive poverty (worse than sudden extinction) to render theyre afflictions the more sensible. “*Qui non temere in quenquam nisi minutis Ictibus animadverti passus est, perpetuo notoque precepto ita fieri, ut se mori sentiat.*” The Gentry, whose loyaltie to theyre King was alwayes inviolable, who were possessed of any lands (hereditary proprietors possible by descent) knowne or reputed to have neere relation unto or extracted from any generous family, were indispensably with their wives and children (destitute and commonlie forsaken of theyre servants not transplantable) were on penalty of death commanded to transplant into Connaught, anno 1654 (theyre goods by insupportable taxes and pressures being consumed) or immediatelie to transport into some forraigne region; noe certain place being assigned wherein they might reside, nor appropriate nor competent provision made for theyre subsistence, unless cameleon-like feed on air, and trans-migrate into the Spacious imaginary Moone's concave, or Sir Thomas Moore's Eutopia, where they may Cohabite with his Poles and Apoles, not to be paraleld by any Example, unless that of Antiochus the tyrant, who endeavoured *constituere habitatores filios alienigenas, in omnibus finibus Judaeorum*. 1. *Machab.* 3, 36.² The victorious seldom removed the subdued without immediately assigning them a certaine Residence, of which in history remaine innumerable precedents. The Assyrian King translated the 10 tribes of Israel into Assyria, placing in their country Persyans, Chaldeans, Sydonians Levi, 1. 1. dec. 1 (*sic*). Nabuchadonazor lead the captive tribe of Judea into Babilon 4. Reg. 17, &c. The Romans entered into league and confederacy with the Campanians, joined with them in matrimony, enfranchised them at Rome: yet afterwards (when

¹ For the details of the transplantation of the Irish gentry, see a paper on “The Plantation of Idrone,” which appeared in vol. iii., pp. 72-80, 145-47,

207-8.

² The verse is:—“And that he should place strangers in all their quarters, and divide their land by lot.”

the latter) revolted and adhered to Hannibal, the Romans thereupon depriving them of the city Capua, and their possessions, notwithstanding afforded them lands elsewhere to inhabit.

Some Gentry of that Barony preferred Exile before Transplantation into Connaught, confiding divine benignity would restore his sacred Majesty Charles 2, and settle him in his throne, untill which time, loyalty in the usurped dominion being esteemed a Capital crime, banishment seemed tollerable, the head being afflicted, Members must sympathize. Yet noe incident, Calamity, Restraint by tyrannicall commands or constitutions, could extinguish theyre loyall Affection to their lawfull prince, nor extenuate the zeale theyre predecessors had to attend his Majesties Service in foraigne parts, many faithfully and inseperable adhering into him.¹ *Ex virtutibus parentum prolis licet judicare successum, dum origo possit deficere quo radicitus convenit pullulare; et hanc conditionem sustinent cuncta manantia, ut sapor qui concessus est origini, nisi per accidentia fuerit forte vitiatum, nesciat Rivulis denegari.*—*Cassiodorus ad Theodosium.* Notwithstanding noe proprietor of Lands in that Barony since his Majestie's wished for happy restoracōn is judicially condemned,² nor settled in his ancient hereditary possessions;

¹ Our anonymous author must have been ignorant of some historical passages in 1641-9. Some of the gentry, and particularly Hugh Rochfort, of Tagunna, and Nicholas French, R. C. bishop of Ferns, were active in seeking and obtaining aid from foreign princes. When, in 1642, a Spanish vessel brought arms and gunpowder to Wexford, the townsmen and sailors of the port carried the Spanish flag in procession through the streets, singing,—

God bless the King of Spain,
For, but for him, we should all be slain.

(Harl. MS. 5999). The Irish Confederate Catholics accomplished little, because they were always looking abroad; the Scots Covenanters did wonders, not relying on extrinsic aid; the English Dissenters did the most, because they had iron on their breasts, and gold and silver to back them.

² By the Act of Settlement, after the Restoration, one of the provisos framed to prevent restoration to estates was, that whoever had taken portions of land in Connaught during the Interregnum were not to recover their original lands. Indictments for high treason had, in 1642, been laid in Dublin against the principal gentlemen of the county. See Carte's Ormonde, vol. ii., as to the nature of these indictments. The text im-

plies that, although numbers of estates were not condemned by any tribunal, the fact of their being expelled of 1654 enabled the Adventurers and Soldiers to keep them out after the Restoration. A few of the principal gentry of the county, who had adhered to the treaties of peace made by Ormonde with the Confederates, recovered parts of their properties, as Sir Thos. Esmonde, Bart.; Robert Devereux of Carigmenan, who had been one of the Supreme Council of the Confederation; and Colonel Sir Dudley Colclough, of the Duffrey. Colonel William Browne, of Mulrankan, who was taken prisoner in 1647, in battle against the Parliamentarians, and was afterwards in Grace's regiment, having served under Charles the Second's ensigns abroad, was restorable, but did not succeed in recovering his estate. Christopher Hore, of Pole-Hore, recovered part of his property, as did William Hore, of Harperston, who was one of the two treasurers of the Confederation; and Philip Hore, whose father, Philip, of Kilsalghan, county Dublin, had been the original treasurer of the Confederation, recovered his Wexford property. But, as stated in the text, the mass of landed proprietors, having been ejected in 1654, were excluded by various circumstances and on various pretences from restoration.

though neither upon the first eruption of the fatal commotions in Ireland, nor during the unfortunate progress thereof, any of the Gentry of that Barony were instrumental or active any way in the expulsion of any Englishman or protestant;¹ rather protected many such persons and their goods, securing them from all violence, injuries, and dangers then impending and elsewhere frequently perpetrated. However by an assumed authority afterwards overpowered, and forced to an involuntary passive obedience to submit to the Modell of Government established by the National Assembly at Kilkenny, of the Confederate Catholics of Ireland, whereby they were involved in the disastrous Tempest, and made obnoxious to the deplorable final shipwreck of that distracted Commonwealth; in which dismall complacency and Compliance, Necessity might seeme to mediate their excuse, and Extenuate, if not wash off, the staine cast on their (former immaculate) loyalty. It will seeme much rigour if the acceptance of Cromwel's protection be imputed a crime by cause, *Quod vi aut Metu Cogitur, id magis Jubenti quam facienti acceptum referri debet*. But none sooner nor with more zealous alacrity submitted unto his Majestie's Clemency and peace, anno 1648, when the first overture was made, and possibility of restoring and establishing his Majestie's Authority: and more vigorously opposed seditious dissenters (to it) as before is mentioned. The loss of Credit is incident to the Calamitous: most men regarding the Event of Affayres, rather than the merit of the Cause, or Integrity of Actors, and Innocency of their Intentions. *Hoc placet, O Superi, vobis cum vertere cuncta Propositum, nostris erroribus addere Crimen*. Lucan.

The prime Gentlemen and Freeholders in that Barony, interested (though many of them had considerable Estates elsewhere), were Staffords, Rosceters, Coods;² of which Coode of Castle

¹ This is a notable proof of the Christian charity in which the professors of the two forms of religion lived together in this county. It is asserted in the appendix to Lord Clarendon's History, that not one Englishman was murdered there during the entire war. But during the interregnum, the cruelties and massacres perpetrated by the soldiers in settling themselves in their allotments, in 1650-4, were terrible.

² Staffords. This family was traditionally said to have come from Buckinghamshire, and to have sprung from a third son of the line of Staffordes, Dukes of Buckingham. Robert of Stafford was a baron by tenure in the time of the Conqueror; his son's name was Nicholas, and grandson's Robert, who died about

1176. Nicholas de S. was one of the jurors on an inquest in Wexford, in 1296. (Rolls House, 24 E. I., No. 56.) Robert S. was summoned in arms among the gentry of the county, in 1345. John S. was sheriff of the county in 1610. His son, Nicholas, was appointed governor of the county on the civil war of 1642.

The Rosceters came from Rocester, in Lincolnshire. In 1357, Robert Rowcestre claimed the advowson of Rathmacnee, his ancestors probably having built the church and granted the tithes. (Register of All Saints, p. 87.) Thomas Rossieter, of Rathmacnee, was expelled in 1653. Bargo castle was built by one of another branch, whose initials are on an oak panel in the house. Slevoey belonged

towne,¹ his familie expressed singular loyaltie and Valour in Q. Eliza : warres, several of them being therein slaine. Esmondess of Johnstowne, from which family alsoe descended divers magnanimous Martialists, of which Laurence, Lord Esmond, Baron of Limbricke, was extracted, having beene in the said Q. Eliz. Reigne by her Majesty employed in Holland, when there protectress, and most eminentlie active against the Rebels² during the then Irish Warres, upon numerous terrible and dangerous conflicts victorious : by whose conduct, valour, vigilancy, and prudence the Kavanaghes, Birnes, Tooles, and others (chiefe Incendiarys and fomenters) in the province of Leynster (of rebellious machinations and Disturbance of publique Tranquility) were soe curbed, subdued, and reduced to due subjection, that theyre designs were frustrated, Seditious factions irrecoverablie dissolved, and dissipated (the string once broken Beades necessarily fall to ground) : after which loyall and noble service he was by King James created as aforesaid, made Major General of the Army in Ireland, Governor of his Majestie's Fort Royal of Doncannon, and one of his Majestie's honorable privie council in Ireland. He was irreconciliable avers to Enemyes of the Crowne of England ; indeavoured by loyal and prudent Exhortations to premonish and dissuade his Relacôns and Countrymen from taking Armes by the Instigation of some debauched Bankrupts, Criminals³

to Walter R. in 1608. Another branch lived at Tacumshane, and owned the manor of Tomhaggard.

Coodes. This is still a Cornish and Devonshire surname. Nicholas Codde, of Castletown, was marshal of the armed array of the "liberty" or palatinate of Wexford, and was, as appears by the visitation of the county, slain in the year 1600. His son, Martin, died a Protestant. James C., of Clogheast, was a captain in the Confederate Wexford force during the civil war. Robert C. was Knight of the shire for the county in 1584. James C., of "Ballenfane," in Forth, died in 1635, leaving Walter, whose son, Matthew, of "Ballyhumphane," was ejected, and his property was afterwards granted to Nicholas C., the squire previously mentioned.

Among the families unnoticed are Lamport, of Ballyhire, of whom the last was a captain in the Confederate army ; the Hays, of the Hill ; the Frenchs, of whom James represented Wexford in parliament at Westminster in 1376 ; and the Rochforts, of Tagunнан.

¹ Note in original : — " Clougheast, Ballyumphane, Garrilogh descended from Castletowne. A manor belongs

thereunto."

² In the 16th century, the Strongbonian families in this county had much to do to hold their own against the surrounding Celtic clans. After the suppression of the house of Kildare, which had hitherto kept these clans in check, and when King Henry dispossessed Lord Shrewsbury, as an absentee, of the lordship of Wexford, the king appointed an English knight, Sir William St. Loo, seneschal, with 47 men as his retinue, to defend the district. On the 24th June, 1537, Sir Walter Browne, of Mulran-can ; John Devereux, of Balmaguir ; and Alexander, Baron Keating, of Kilcoan, addressed a letter from Mulran-can to the king's secretary, complaining that the seneschal and his retainers are not sufficient for protection, and proposing that 5000 or 6000 persons, part soldiers, and part husbandmen, should be planted between Dublin and Wexford ; or otherwise, that the king should lease the county to them, they covenanting to defend it.

³ Our author, in thus characterizing the leaders of the 1641 insurrection, is so far correct, as that the principal insurgents were mostly needy officers, who

(though of noble extraction) who neither could be secure of their liberty, nor Consolatorily subsist without distraction or confusion in the Commonwealth, whereby lawes to restraints transgressors might not be put in Execution. Prognosticating their inevitable Ruine, he resolved (as farre as in him laye) to defend his Majestie's interest, and to secure the foresaid Forte, in which he remained after a long and tedious seige during [.] years, without any relief or assistance, the Country round about (the space of several miles) being deserted, and the Strongholds adjacent replenished with armed Adversarys, many of his men being slaine, victuals and Ammunition being exhausted, without hope of supplie, or succour, he was necessitated on honourable Conditions to surrender and depart with displayed colours, Bal en Bouch; Generall Preston entering thereinto. After which Rendition he lived not two dayes, so grievously did he resent that loss, and the Miserys his Countrymen wilfully precipitated themselves. He was at Limericke, (near Gorey) interred in a church by himself builded, where there is erected a sumptuous tombe. This nobleman during his minority, continued a Martialist in the Low Countries of Germany, the famous Academy of Military Discipline and good Literature, the only theater of warlike stratagems and heroike exploits; wherein he became an Excellent proficient, being afterwards constantlie employed as deservedly esteemed an expert, prudent, and resolute Commander, of a sedate and composed spirit, not meriting the Censure of Temerity, or least symptome of timorous dispaire (accompanied with few or many) before ingagement in any Conflict; his countenance terrible, with formidable voice when exasperated: of sanguin Complexion, of an indifferent tall stature, compact, solid, corpulent body with robustious Limms, terrible to his Enemy, merciful when victorious, obliginglie civill and unalterable constant where he once professed amity: Cautious and sparing in promise, speedy and punctual in performance, vigilant, circumspect, and polique [*sic*] in Time of peace and warre; always a favorite of the Lords L^{ts}. and Deputyes during his time in Ireland; very honourable hospitious and liberal, maintaining alwayes a numerous Retinue of well accomplished young gentlemen, well accoutred and compleatlie armed with excellent serviceable horses; close in his Counsails and Designs, speedily executing what maturely had been deliberated. Abstemious and continent, esteeming him incapable of serious and eminent

had served on the Continent, and could not live but by war. These men, being at first successful, as at the battle of Gilianston, near Drogheda, drew the lords and gentry of the Pale to join them, on which the whole island rose in arms. It will be observed that our author, in his memoir of Lord Esmonde, blames

those of his countrymen who "precipitated themselves" into the civil war. Those were to be pitied who were forced into it, and especially those who never were active in it, but promoted peace as much as possible. Many proofs could be adduced to show that Lord Esmonde was a Parliamentarian.

Employment who voluntarily enslaved himself to wine or women : when prosperous in his designs not insultive proud or vain glorious nor in adversity dejected. A Soldier, Statesman, and good patriot, a Terror to Rebels in his Time, protector to loyal subjects, an honour, support, and consolation to his Relations. He carried in his Escutcheon or Coat of Armes 3 mullets with powdered Ermines, the field Argent.

He lived beloved, still mourned
Though in the Grave,
Blessings that kings have wished,
But could not have.

Sir Thos. Esmonde, son of the said Lord did not degenerate from his father's heroicke virtues and Martial disposition, singularly manifested in the Expedition¹ against the french king in Charles I. his reigne, under the conduct of the Duke of Buckingham, and at his Returne into England was made Knight and Baronet ; after his father's decease was created Viscount Newborough : he zealouslie appeared in the defence and establishing his Majesties Authority and acceptance and submission unto the peace proclaimed in Ireland anno. 1648, vigorouslie opposing and suppressing such as were averse thereunto : amongst which the Leord Clangarry,² with a considerable party of Irish, Scots, and Highlanders, haveing made incursion into the County of Wexford, intending to Countenance the Northern faction, in order to the rejection of the said peace,

¹ This was an expedition in which the duke landed in the Isle of Rhé, in July, 1627. The Catholic powers of the Continent had meditated a plan of attack on England; and he anticipated it by carrying war into their country; the Huguenots supported Buckingham; but the expedition failed for want of sufficient support. Sir Thomas Esmonde was then a Protestant. He failed to make good his claim to his father's peerage, because his father had, when his son became a Roman Catholic, thrown doubts on his own marriage. After the surrender of Duncannon to General Preston, Lord Esmonde died of grief; his son seized his father's carriage as it was passing through Enniscorthy to go to Limbrick, in order to search for "writings concerning himself," doubtless to prove his legitimacy. Sir Thomas, however, obtained a promise, as in the text, of another title, that of Viscount Newborough, or Gorey; but his estate having been granted to Colonel Monk, this powerful man's opposition prevented him from re-

covering the best part of it, and, perhaps, also the peerage.

² "The Leord Clangarry," now Glengarry. In 1647, the Marquis of Antrim had brought over the Laird of Glengarry with a regiment of Highlanders to Munster. These he drew the next year from thence to join the clan Kavanagh in opposing the cessation of hostilities. As they marched on the 8th October from near Wexford, to raise the Kavanaghs' and Byrnes' countries in arms, making in all about 1500 foot and 50 horse, Sir Thomas Esmonde and another Anglo-Irish leader called Mac Thomas fell upon them, and being stronger in horse completely routed them. About 400 were found dead on the spot: all the Scotch officers were either killed or taken prisoners; which last was the fate of Glengarry and his uncle. (Carte's Life of Ormonde, 8vo. iii., 394.) It probably was for this loyal service that Sir Thomas was created a Viscount, or, rather, received a promise to be so created, for no patent was made out.

the s^d Clangarry, with his dependants, were by the said Sir Thomas incountred neere Inis-corthy, and after a short smart conflict, the Highlanders were put to the rout, totally slaine and taken prisoners, with theyre leader desiring quarter. Sir Laurence Esmond, Eldest son of the said Sir Thomas, and heire unto the foresaid Lord, hath in his minority manifested signal demonstrations of valour, and the martial disposition of his noble progenitors, in some conflicts against the Cromwellians, especially at Lambestowne,¹ in the County of Wexford, then commanding a party of horse, at which time and place a great number of them were slaine, he then affording testimony of inviolate innate Loyalty to his King, and eminent hopes of imitating the famous atchivements of his predecessors, is not yet restored to his paternall inheritance.

Wadding of Ballicogle² had considerable interest in the said barony, and was in former time eminent in the s^d County. Scurlocke of Roslare³ formerlie enjoyed two mannors with a valuable estate in

¹ Lambstown.—This battle, fought in 1650, is still traditionally spoken of in the neighbourhood. It is said to have been the last stand made against the Cromwellians in Leinster. The road in which the battle was fought is called "the bloody gap," the ditches having been full of blood. Esmonde commanded the horse; Nicholas Fitz-Henry of Mackmines is traditionally said to have commanded a troop of Bantry men; Christopher Hore, of Pole-Hore, and Philip Hore of Kilvashlan, captain of foot under General Preston, and one of the Furlongs, commanded the levy of the Glynn. The force opposed to them was the garrison of Wexford, a band of well-armed veterans, which marched out to clear and seize the country. The defenders, when beaten, fled as far as a hill still called "the drummer's hill," where they rallied, but were again dispersed. In the appendix to Lord Clarendon's History, it is stated that Piers Butler, eldest son of Lord Galmoy, and captain of horse by royal commission, being taken prisoner in this fight, was killed in cold blood after quarter given.

² Wadding of Ballycogly.—There is a pedigree of this family in the heraldic visitation of 1608. Thomas W. sheriff of the county in the fourth year of the reign of Richard II., was one of three who were appointed to provide twenty archers for the defence of the shire. Thomas W., of Ballycogly, by Margaret, dau. of Nicholas Roche, Newbawn, had a son, Richard, who m. Elenor, da. of John Rowseter of Rathmacnee, Esq., and

begat Thomas, Philip, James, Nicholas, Margaret, m. to James Keating of Baldwinston, Marion to Edward Synnott, Joan to Richard Weale of Wexford, Isabel to Thomas Stafford of Wexford, Elenor to Thomas Scurlock of Bolgan (in the Glynn), and Alice to Thomas Codde of the Knock. Their father married, secondly, Joan, da. of Philip Lamport of Ballyhire, and had one daughter. The eldest son, Thomas, was one of the knights of the shire in 1613, and had also a large family. His eldest son, Richard, was, on the breaking out of the civil war, made treasurer of the county, and he was subsequently one of the Confederate council at Kilkenny. By Mary, da. of Patrick Sarsfield, Esq., he had a son, John, who was one of the county council during the civil war. The second son of the Member of Parliament was Walter, who, by Mary, da. of David Synnott, of Rahyn, had Luke, who was agent to the Confederates in Rome during the war, was afterwards R. C. bishop of Ferns, and died 1 Dec. 1687; and John, a merchant in Dublin.

³ Scurlock of Roslare.—This family came with Strongbow from South Wales, where there is a castle of their name. Nicholas S., of Rathredan, in the co. Dublin, had a son, Oliver, who was one of the captains of the Irish regiment of kern at the siege of Boulogne; by a daughter of the White O'Ferrall he had a son, Doctor Rowland S., who was physician to Queen Mary, who received from her a grant, in 1558, of Roslare manor, and who married Isabel, daugh-

Ballymore and Roslare, unto whom the Copyholders by theyre Tenures¹ performed homage, divers customary duties and services not elsewhere used, many of which were servile; none could marry in his Lordships without his previous Licence, nor build a howse, or suffer it to be demolished or to fall or decay. If a Copyholder married a maide, a certain fine was payable to the Lord; if a widow double as much, a woman whose virginity had been violated more; which fine or duty was termed *Lotherwite*. All Tenants deceasing were lyable to *Heriots*. Transgressors of such and many other strange customs incurred forfeiture of theyre respective interest by Copyhold.

There are many distinct families of *Sinnots* in the said county in number exceeding any other ancient name within its limitts; whose Estates were valuable before the late tyrannicall usurpacions; amongst which the howse of Ballybrennan,² in Forte, was esteemed the most eminent: whose possessors frequentlie were intrusted with greatest Authority in affaires of publike Concerne in that County, from whose progeny descended several men remarkable for schoole learning and persons indowed with heroicke spirits and martially disposed minds, vigorously active in theyre constant Loyall affection to the Crowne of England, during all Combustions and Rebelious Insurrections in Ireland, wherein they resolutelie demeaned themselves, exposing what was most deare unto them and theyre

ter of James Devereux, and left a son, Aristotle, of Roslare, who resided at Carigmenan in 1592, and gave information respecting the escape of Lord Balingtias. Aristotle Scurlock ma. Elenor, da. of Thomas Fitz Harris, of Kilkevan, and had issue Roland, Thomas, and Richard. The eldest son lived at Roslare, and m. a da. of Synnott, of Ballybrennan.

¹ These tenants were, perhaps, the only copyholders in this kingdom. They doubtless descended from the Ostmen of this district, for whom see an article, entitled "The Scandinavians in Leinster" in a previous volume of this "Journal." If the *droit de mariage* continued in use to the year 1558 (see previous note), it was in force here at a later date than probably anywhere else. The original design of this custom was, doubtless, to prevent settlement of aliens or enemies among denizens. *Lotherwite* may mean *Lother's law*; *wite* is a fine or penalty. *Heriots* were the best beast or piece of furniture, due to the lord on the death of his tenant, who, being originally a slave, was supposed to have no property.

² There is an enrolment of a deed of John, son of Richard Synod, of Ballybrennan, *temp.* Edw. II., in the Close Rolls. Walter S., of Ballybrennan, died 20th May, 1530, leaving issue Richard, Walter (of Farrelston or Ballytramont, sheriff in 1591), and other children. Richard S., of Ballybrennan, Esq., the eldest son, performed eminent services to the crown during Elizabeth's reign. He was Knight of the shire in 1559: was one of the commissioners for mustering the array of the county in 1579; purchased the grant of Enniscorthy abbey and lands from Spenser, the poet, and sold it to Sir Henry Wallop: is frequently mentioned with eulogy in the state papers; the viceroy, in a letter dated 19 Aug. 1582, greatly praises "Richard Synot, a man of good birth, living, and credit." Was granted the manor of Rosgarland: died 9th Sept. 1591. His eldest son having been slain in battle, his grandson, Martin, succeeded to Ballybrennan, who married Anistace, daughter of Robert Esmonde, Esq., of Johnstown, and left his heir Richard, born in 1621, who had livery of his Estate 7 Aug. 1640, and was deprived by Cromwell.

Lives in opposing, repelling and suppressing Common Enemyes invading the said County, as also elsewhere especially during the 15 yeares warrs in Q. Elizabeth's Reigne, when Rich^d. Sinnot of Bal-librenan afors^d, commanding and having the conduct of Forces raised in the said County (attended by his sonns and many other Sinnots his Relations and dependants) afforded signal testimony of their valour and loyalty to their prince and country in several violent and fierce conflicts returning with their party victorious; wherein Walter Sinnot, eldest sonne of the s^d Rich. was slaine (then Sheriff of the said County) neere Iniscorthy. For which numerous demonstracons of Fidelity and noble services, the said Rich. Sinnot became her Majestie's favourite, on whom as a Royal Gratiuity, her Majesty vouchsafed gratuslie to conferre a considerable Estate of forfeited lands (which after the death of his eldest sonne as aforesaid) he distributed and settled on the yonger.

2. To James Sinnot, the Manor or Barony of Rosgarland.

3. To John Sinnot, Cooledyne, with 1200 acres.

4. To Nicholas Sinnot,¹ Parke, Logh, and other villages, with several howses in Wexford.

5. To Sir W^m. Sinnot, Knight, Balifarnocke, with 24 plowlands intire in the Murrowes.

6. To Edmond Sinnot, Lingstowne, with other villages.

1. Leaving onely to his Grandchild, Martin Sinnot, the Ancient Mannor of Ballicaran and Ballibrenan aforesaid. The present proprietor whereof persevering in his predecessors' zealous Loyalty to his King, was by the late Regicide usurper expelled and Exiled, his Estate, anno 1653, being as a gratuity given unto General Monke,² and since detained by his Grace the Duke of Albemarle,

¹ This Nicholas Synnot's son and heir is mentioned by Sir William Brereton, in 1634, as "Mr. William Synod of the Lough, landlord" of the Park of Wexford, and as having leased this latter place to Mr. Hardey, (Harvey?) an Englishman. The knight, who was in search of a farm, says the rent of this was £16 a year, for between 200 and 300 acres, and he gives a curious account of the place. Sir William Synnott governed the country of the O'Murroughoes (Murphys), by lease from the Queen. By letter dated 15 July, 1600, the privy council speak highly of his "qualytye and services." (Council Office Register.) He was knighted on the 22nd June, 1600 (Carew MS. 619). He was one of the justices of peace, and resided at Ballyfernock. His son, Walter, had his estate created into a manor, in 1617, and was Knight of the shire in 1613. His

son, William, married a daughter of Sir James Carroll, mayor of Dublin.

² General Monk, having been the principal power which effected the Restoration, retained all that had been granted him during the interregnum, as did Sir Charles Coote, lord Broghill, Arthur Annesley, and other chief men of the restoring party. In fact, the Restoration was planned in Ireland, by Coote and others, on condition that the soldiery of Cromwell's army, and the Adventurers who had been settled on Irish land under the English act of 1642, should not be deprived of their allotments. Broadly viewed, the cause of the Confederates in Ireland was similar in principle to that of the Covenanters in Scotland and the Independents in England. The former, being the weaker party, paid for the civil war by the loss of their lands.

the said proprietor, though distressed, preferring an Existence in some forraigne Region before transplantacion into Connaught, especially his dear and dread Sovereign being exiled, he neither desiring nor accepting (when officiously procured) any compensation in lieu of his ancient inheritance (as most other proprietors in Ireland), depending on divine providence and his Majestie's Charles 2 unparalleled [*sic*] Clemency and Bounty. Sinnot of Ballibrenan beares in his Escutcheon or Coate of Armes a Swan or Cignet sable, the field argent (*Elementa Coloris*). Besides the fores^d families and howses of Sinnots, the ensuing severall Branches and familys originally descended from the howse of Ballebrenan, gentlemen enjoying good Estates for many descents, from whom also several persons famous for learning and chivalry, in Germany,¹ France, Spaine,² and Muscovie, &c., were extracted.

In the Barony of Fort, Sinnot of Balligery;³

Sinnot of Rathdowny.

Sinnot of Stonehowse of Wexford.

Sinnot of Gratkerocke.

¹ Colonel David S. is mentioned in Carte's *Life of Ormonde*, i. 367, as being brought to Wexford in Sept. 1642, by Colonel Preston, and in vol. ii. 90, as lieutenant-colonel of Preston's regiment and governor of Wexford. His Colonel and he had commanded the famous Anglo-Irish regiment in the Austrian service, first known as Butler's, and then as Devereux's. (Carve's "Itin.") He was son of Michael S. of the Rahine, by Mary, d. of Edmond Hore of Harperston. His son, Timothy, was brought up in Derry as a protestant.

Colonel Oliver S. was in the service of the Duke of Lorraine, and was sent to the Marquis of Clanricarde in 1651 on the king's service. (Clanricarde's "Memoirs," append. 30.) It is observed in a remarkable state paper of 1614, printed in "*Desid. Curiosa Hib.*," that many of the Irish Gael had, as officers in Continental service, and as ecclesiastics educated abroad, acquired extraordinary endowments, rendering them formidable. The same afterwards applied to many of the Anglo-Irish of similar education.

² The Synnots in Spain may have descended from John Synnot, who is mentioned in the *Life of Sir Peter Carew* as having been employed as an "honest lawyer;" but who, having lent money to Gerald, 16th Earl of Desmond, and being otherwise implicated in this noble-

man's rebellion, exiled himself.—*Maclean's "Life of Carew,"* pp. 80, 250.

³ Simon Sinnot of Ballygery, was one of the gentlemen of this barony in 1608. (Carew MS. 600.) As was also Jasper S. of Rathdowny, one of the small ancient freeholders of the district. Henry S. of Greatkyrock is similarly recorded in the same MS. Synnot's "Stone howse" in Wexford is of record. Of this branch was Colonel David S., governor of the town, who was killed in 1649. James S. had a grant of the castle of the Owleord, and 920 acres, in soccage, and died in 1618, leaving Edmund, who was expelled. Jasper S. of Ballymore had a son, Arthur, who held 859 acres, and was at the battle of Ballinvegga, or Ross, 17th March, 1643. (Printed Inquisitions.) Edmond S. is mentioned as of Garrynisk, in the parish of Castle-Ellis. Mathew S. is mentioned as of Tinraheen, in the parish of Killisk. Richard S. is mentioned as of Ballinvacky, in the parish of Kilmemanagh. Besides the above there were others of the name proprietors in Ballaghkeen, as appears by the Book of Survey: as Piers Synnot owning 755^s. in Ardemine; Edward, 421^s. in Ballyhuskart; Arthur, in Garryvadden, and another Arthur in Killily. David S. of Ballyroe, in Edermine, had a grant of lands, 15. Jac. I: by his wife Alison Roche, he had an heir Richard. Walter S. son of Richard

In Ballaghene Barony.

Sinnot of Owlort,

Sinnot of Ballymore.

Sinnot of Garrymusky.

Sinnot of Tinraheene.

In Shilmaleere.

Sinnot of Garrymusky.

Sinnot of Owlortvicke.

Sinnot of Ballinhownemore.

Sinnot of Ballinvacky.

Sinnot of Balleareele.

Sinnot of Balliroe.

Sinnot of Ballinkilly.

Sinnot of Monyvilleog.

Sinnot of Mogangolie.

These Gentlemen compleatlie armed, and mounted on horsebacke, in Q. Eliz. warrs, adhearing and unanimous in theyre resolutions, vigorouslie opposed such as appeared Rebellious or disaffected to the Crowne of England; they enjoyed their freeholds and ancient Inheritance untill the late usurped Government, being then as proprietors transplantable. How innocent soever, Loyalty to their King seemed Criminal.

The Barony of Fort contains within its limits Wexford, a very ancient Corporat Towne the description of whose pleasant and profitable situation, Beauty, Strength, pious Monuments, and Structure, may be delineated by a more dextrous pen and more ample acquainted and better informed judgement. A slender Elogie of the eminently deserving things doth but detract from their reall and due Estimât. The Towne is governed by a Major and Balives. There are two Burgesses sent from thence to all parliaments in Ireland. It is in the Diocese of Fernes. To render an exact accompt of the numerous Commodities that towne is constantlie supplied with all, the frequentation of Merchants and Strangers from almost all parts of Europe, the sending from thence to all parts of the knowne world, the Exquisite knowledge of the Natives in the art of Navigation, very many of them familiarlie having traversed the ocean to the most remote regions and coasts discovered by Americus Megellanus Vesputius [*sic*], and Drake, capable to Navigate and in a martial manner to command the greatest ship, and best provided with offensive and defensive arms, from the Gallion to the Galliot, whose valiant resolution activity and Strength of Body, in

(son of Walter of Farrelston or Balintroman) by "Amy, dau. of Rosse M'David, of the familie of M'Davidmore," lived at Ballykayle, and by his

wife, Amy, daughter of Cahir O'Doran, had an heir, Melchior Sinnot, who was deprived of his property by the Parliamentary Government.

many late engagements at sea, is remarkablie knowne to all Admirals in Europe. Theyre inviolate fidelity and loyal affection to theyre dread and deare Sovereigne Charles 2 King of England, and theyre zealous and incessant services for his Majesty and inseparable attendance on him during his Exile, would require a grand volume: not to mention the abundance of all sorts of Corne, flesh, butter, Tallow, Hides, Wool, Timber, incredible quantity of fish and its variety, the market is supplied with all.

The Barony of Fort had many ancient Gent. resident therein proprietors of Lands now possessed by very few, given as compensation for service in the Usurper's Government performed; unto whom for the Character by him given of the Extraction of his army (as it was frequentlie related, after his Arrivall in Ireland,) they were not much obliged, affirming that it consisted of very few Noblemen, wherein, and in the like Assertions there may appear manifest injurious Errors, for there is much distinction to be made twixt Nobility of virtue and Nobility by birth. There being sometimes nobility of descent in him who is destitute of virtue; soe there may be virtuous qualities in a plebeian. *Nobilitas sola est atque unica virtus.* The philosopher avers. *Nobilitas est majorum splendor et Claritas.* 2 Rhet., c. 15: and distinguishing *Nobilis* from *Generosus* affirms and defines *Nobilis est qui a bono prodiit Genere, Generosus vero est qui non degeneravit a sua Natura.* L. 1, Animal. But virtue is honourable though not ennobled with magnificent titles or by some not applauded, yet by nature is laudable. Aristotles his assertion (Politic. 5, 1) is remarkable and often verified. *Nobilitatem quidem in verbis fere omnes usurpant, sed qui revera Nobiles sint nusquam reperiuntur, Divites autem reperiuntur in multis Locis."*

PARTICULARS RELATIVE TO WEXFORD AND THE BARONY OF FORTH: BY COLONEL SOLOMON RICHARDS, 1682.

EDITED BY HERBERT F. HORE, ESQ.

SOLOMON RICHARDS, the author of the following short chorographic tract, was of a Welsh family, and of Presbyterian tenets. After serving in the Parliamentary army until the overthrow of the Royal cause, he came to Ireland, and received from the Parliamentary Government a grant of several thousand acres of land in the county of Wexford. He continued in command in the Republican army till 1656, being latterly governor of Wexford. After the Restoration, he was concerned in the plot of 1663, organized by the infamous Blood, with the design of seizing Dublin Castle, and restoring